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Eleventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 199th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 28 January 1992, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. ILIC
(Vice-Chairperson)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION (continued)

Second periodic report of Spain (CEDAW/C/13/Add.19 and Amend.1)

1. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Pedauye and Ms. Gutiérrez López (Spain) took a place at the Committee table.

2. Mr. PEDAUYE (Spain) said that his country attached great importance to the human rights conventions adopted by the United Nations and, more specifically, to implementing its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The goals of the Convention were fully in keeping with the provisions of the Spanish Constitution, which laid down the principles of equality of men and women before the law and promotion of equality. Achieving the goals in question called for sustained effort on the part of his Government, which wished the rightful role of women in the world to be taken increasingly into account in the activities of the United Nations system.

3. Ms. GUTIERREZ LOPEZ (Spain) said that, from the time when it had ratified the Convention and submitted its initial report, Spain had been resolved to end the historic inequality between men and women. There had been two significant developments since then. The first had been the incorporation into domestic law of the European Community's norms on relations between men and women, including its affirmative action programmes for the periods 1980-1985 and 1985-1990. The second had been the adoption by the Council of Ministers in September 1987 of the first Plan for Equality of Opportunities for Women, 1988-1990 drafted by the Steering Council of the Institute for Women's Affairs, the agency responsible for coordinating and implementing government policies on equal opportunity. The Plan took a global, rather than a sectoral, approach and its objectives included further development of constitutional norms on equality; the introduction of administrative measures in favour of women; and the establishment of infrastructure for the social protection of the most vulnerable groups of women. In major areas, the evolution of Spanish women's status was easy to assess. In education, for example, the participation of women was equal to that of men at practically all levels and the only differences were qualitative - i.e., the studies pursued or the centres at which women and girls enrolled. In fact, girls performed slightly better in school than boys. Since 1987, there had been more women than men enrolled in the universities. Not as many women sought vocational training courses, and those who did, chose to study mainly administrative and commercial subjects. In the 1986-1987 school year, women had accounted for 15 per cent of students enrolled in secondary technical schools. However, that figure had gone up in subsequent years. Under the Plan, efforts were being made to overcome gender-based differences in education, broaden educational options for girls and young women and improve working conditions for women. Information on the kinds of jobs held by women was provided in the answers to the Committee's written questionnaire.

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4. The most significant development in the area of employment and labour relations was the steady increase in the percentage of working women, from 27.4 per cent in 1984 to 33.3 per cent in 1991. An additional 1 million women had entered the labour force between 1984 and 1988. At the same time, there had been a 40 per cent decrease in the rate of unemployment among women, which had peaked in 1987. None the less, twice as many women as men were unemployed. The increase in the number of working women had occurred exclusively in the services sector, and there had been a corresponding decrease in the agricultural sector. In 1984, the distribution of women in the work force had been: 66.3 per cent in the services sector; 17 per cent in industry; 16.2 per cent in agriculture and 0.4 per cent in construction. In 1990, the breakdown had been: 72 per cent in services, 16.7 per cent in industry, 10.1 per cent in agriculture and 0.9 per cent in construction. Women continued to be employed mainly in education, health, textiles and domestic work. However, the number of female students enrolled in the National Job Integration Programme had risen from 20,000 in 1985 to 179,000 in 1988.

5. The presence of women had grown significantly at all levels of the public administration. Currently, they represented 39 per cent of all central administration employees, 22 per cent of employees in senior bodies and 12 per cent of those in high-level posts. The civil service was in the vanguard of such changes in favour of women. Recruitment was based solely on merit and 50 per cent of those who passed the entrance examinations were women.

6. Women also played a greater role in political life as a result of a mandatory quota established at the 32nd Congress of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE). Although other political parties had publicly objected to the quota system, they too had added more women to their lists of candidates. In 1986-1989, 6.5 per cent of members of the Congress of Deputies had been women; after the 1989 elections, the figure had risen to 14.6 per cent. That rising trend had continued in both general and local elections. In future, additional measures would be taken to ensure egalitarian, non-sexist education; women's access to employment and positions of responsibility; an improved public image for women; and more equitable sharing of domestic responsibilities between women and men. The integration of women in professional and political life had not been accompanied by more equitable burden-sharing in the home. The resulting double burden sometimes proved an obstacle to women's career advancement.

7. Before replying to the written questionnaire, she wished to address certain general observations. First of all, the current report had been modelled on the format of the report of the Plan for Equality of Opportunities for Women. Future reports would adhere to the format prescribed by the Convention itself, which was doubtless easier for Committee members to follow. The statistics contained in the second periodic report were the most recent available. Some were from 1988, but the statistics from the Ministry of Labour on employment and the working population were from the third quarter

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of 1991. Statistics on population and fertility were available every five years when the census was taken.

8. With regard to the implementation of the Plan for Equality of Opportunities for Women, an evaluation report had been drawn up in December 1990, in whose preparation women's associations, ministerial departments responsible for the Plan's implementation and national experts had taken part. It had been concluded that of the 120 measures set out in the Plan, 116 had been implemented. Measures calling for the amendment of legislation had been fully implemented, with the exception of legislation concerning the preference given to men in determining the order of children's surnames. It had been concluded that there had been major improvements in respect of the remaining measures, which called for the introduction of affirmative action. However, such measures must be continued in the medium term, since they would not produce immediate results.

9. The Committee had asked whether women could bring cases before the Spanish Constitutional Court and before the Court of Justice of the European Communities. Article 10 of the Spanish Constitution provided that rules relating to fundamental rights and freedoms embodied in the Constitution should be interpreted in the light of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international agreements ratified by Spain. Consequently, the fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to equal treatment, set forth in the Constitution had to be interpreted in the light of the principles laid down in the Convention. Under the Convention, women could have recourse to all ordinary courts, including the Supreme Court. Under the amparo procedure (procedure for the enforcement of constitutional rights), individuals could bring cases before the Constitutional Court in the event of a violation of article 14 of the Constitution (principle of equality) and of fundamental rights and freedoms. The Constitutional Court had handed down many decisions in implementation of article 14 that had been reached in the light of international agreements.

10. On the issue of affirmative action, article 9, paragraph 2, of the Spanish Constitution provided, inter alia, that the public authorities should promote equality, remove obstacles to equality and facilitate the involvement of all citizens in political, economic, cultural and social life. Accordingly, the Constitutional Court had indicated that different treatment for women did not constitute discrimination under article 14 of the Constitution but, rather, represented action to counter discrimination against women as a group, and thus met the requirements of article 9, paragraph 2. The Constitutional Court had concluded that different treatment for individuals in differing situations, based on criteria that could be regarded as reasonable, did not violate the principle of equality. That had been the view expressed by the Constitutional Court in its decision of 16 July 1987, laying down a principle reaffirmed in subsequent decisions.

11. Under Law 11/1990, all forms of legal discrimination based on sex had been eliminated, with the exception of the legislation to which reference had

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already been made concerning the preference given to men in the determination of the order of children's surnames.

12. Another issue raised in connection with the second periodic report concerned the Spanish Government's reservation to the effect that its ratification of the Convention had no bearing on Spain's constitutional provisions on succession to the throne. The reservation, which was properly delimited, did not affect the goals of the Convention in any way. Moreover, a constitutional amendment would be required in order to withdraw it.

Articles 1 to 4

13. The Committee had asked to what extent women's organizations had been consulted in the preparation of the report. Women's associations were represented on the Steering Council of the Institute for Women's Affairs and they had participated in the evaluation of the first Plan for Equality of Opportunities for Women, whose outcome had been used as a basis for preparing the second report and the amendment thereto. Furthermore, consideration had indeed been given to the Committee's recommendations in preparing the report.

Article 5

14. The Committee had asked about efforts to overcome stereotyped images of women in domestic and professional life and in advertising. The Institute for Women's Affairs had conducted a series of campaigns to promote awareness of relevant issues and thus broaden the range of educational and vocational opportunities open to girls and young women and encourage the sharing of domestic responsibilities by men and women. Evaluation of the impact of the campaigns was necessarily a medium-term undertaking, since it called for assessment of both changes in attitudes and the evolution of the social status of men and women.

15. Article 3 of the General Law of Publicity of October 1988 provided that advertising that constituted an affront to the individual or a violation of the principles and rights laid down in the Constitution, particularly in respect of children, young people and women, was unlawful. Under the legislation in question, the public authorities, consumer associations and individuals who considered themselves affected could file a complaint with the ordinary courts. As a precaution, the judge could be requested to order the temporary withdrawal of the advertising at issue, pending a ruling on the merits of the case. So far, the courts did not appear to have handed down any decisions under the legislation in question.

16. The Committee had raised a point concerning "criteria to be used in official advertising". That query appeared to be based on a misunderstanding. The Institute for Women's Affairs had in fact not developed such criteria. What it had prepared was a manual on non-sexist use of administrative language, which was included as a chapter in the style manual drawn up by the Ministry of Public Administration.

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17. The most recent studies conducted by the Institute for Women's Affairs indicated that, at the theoretical level, Spanish men held egalitarian views, whereas their actual conduct at home was heavily influenced by traditional attitudes. Spanish men were, in fact, capable of being progressive in general terms and sexist when it came to specific situations. It would appear that although men believed that women both could and should perform the same tasks as men, they did not believe that meant that they themselves should perform the same tasks as women.

Articles 2, 5, 11, 12 and 16

18. With regard to sexual assault, article 429 of the Criminal Code provided that vaginal, anal or buccal penetration constituted rape in the following cases: where force was used or there was intimidation; where the victim was unconscious or deranged; or where the victim was under 12 years of age. Rape was punishable by imprisonment for a term of 12 years and 1 day to 20 years. The Supreme Court had changed its definition of the crime of rape and no longer required that the victim should offer resistance; the Court now simply required that the victim should make it clear that he or she was not consenting.

19. Sexual harassment was not characterized as a crime but, rather, constituted a serious offence and was subject to fines of up to 15 million pesetas. The Labour Inspectorate, which reported to the Ministry of Labour, was responsible for imposing the penalties in question.

20. The security forces (Police and Civil Guard) were given training in how to handle crimes against women and safeguard the rights of female victims. Furthermore, there was a programme to set up services for women at police stations. The services in question were normally provided by female police officers.

21. Rape and sexual assault were separate crimes where the aggressor could be either a relative or a non-relative of the victim, and were subject to more severe penalties than the crime of mistreatment of a family member. Where sterilization of disabled persons was concerned, Organic Law 3/89 provided that sterilization of an incompetent person suffering from a severe mental handicap should not be punishable in cases where the sterilization procedure had been authorized by a judge at the request of the representative of the incompetent person, on the basis of the opinion of two experts and the Office of the Public Prosecutor, and following an examination of the incompetent person.

Article 6

22. The exploitation of foreign prostitutes was punishable under the Criminal Code. In Spain, there was a close link between prostitution and illegal immigration, which made it particularly difficult to control by means of police measures. Nevertheless, the police were implementing programmes to

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suppress exploitation of the prostitution of Portuguese, African and Latin American women. Programmes had been set up for the benefit of women engaged in prostitution, providing such social services as child care, maternal and child health care, and vocational training.

Articles 7 and 8

23. The Communist Party had established a quota of 35 per cent for participation by women in its decision-making organs and lists of candidates. The other political parties had not established quotas but had included a significant number of women in their lists of candidates. Under the quota system, the quota for the inclusion of women in lists and in party decision-making bodies must at least be filled. In Spain, the quota system had brought a remarkable number of women to political office. Voting patterns as such had not been affected by the greater numbers of women included in the lists, as voters voted for a party's overall list. With regard to the presence of women in higher public office, women had held 10 per cent of high-level positions in the Administration in 1987, and approximately 12 per cent in 1991. That increase was attributable to affirmative action programmes and to the greater numbers of women holding senior civil service positions, which led to high public office. Currently, 22 per cent of senior officials in the Administration were women.

24. Where military employment was concerned, there were no barriers to women. However, Decree-Law 1/1988 had been promulgated only recently and there had not as yet been time for female recruits to advance along their career paths.

25. With regard to the diplomatic corps, in 1987 women had accounted for approximately 4.98 per cent of all diplomatic staff. In 1991, women had represented approximately 9.11 per cent of the total. Also in 1991, women had accounted for approximately 50 per cent of candidates in the examinations for admission to the diplomatic service.

Article 10

26. On the question of vocational guidance available to people completing secondary education, a non-discriminatory guidance module had been introduced in 1987 in courses for non-university teachers, and a teaching manual had been published on non-sexist vocational guidance. Annual seminars had been held since 1986 to train the guidance teams of educational centres in gender equality.

27. Concerning girls' participation in new technology, a European research and action project had been developed to encourage girls to take part in school activities related to new technologies in 1987-1988. Training programmes had been developed in 1990-1991 for female technology teachers with a view to their becoming role models for girls in their respective schools.

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28. Gender-based job segregation had been reduced by measures to encourage more women to take vocational training, since in the last few years more women had been entering technical disciplines that had traditionally been considered a male preserve.

29. On the question of scholarships, no scholarships were specifically earmarked for women, but other programmes had been developed to diversify women's professional and educational choices, including consciousness-raising campaigns involving the publication of brochures in cooperation with the Institute for Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science.

30. To monitor the plan for non-sexist use of language and teaching materials co-educational working groups had been established in 50 teachers' centres; centres where no such groups existed as yet received videos and publications from the Institute for Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science. The Ministry's guidelines on non-sexist use of language had been published and distributed to primary and secondary schools, as had a European Community handbook on the implementation of gender equality. The Institute for Women's Affairs, in cooperation with the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, was also preparing non-sexist curricula to be made available to all teachers.

Article 11

31. The obstacles to greater participation by women in the work force were chiefly of three kinds: those created by companies because of a certain business culture; women's own low self-esteem; and their disproportionate family responsibilities. There did not appear to be any obstacles to training, however.

32. Unemployment was more widespread among women with few qualifications and those who had abandoned the labour market for years in order to look after children and the family.

33. Maternity leave, part of which could be taken by either parent had been extended to 16 weeks. Either parent could also take up to three years' leave from his or her job to care for a child. Discrimination by employers in that connection made them liable to fines of up to 15 million pesetas. The dismissal of a worker either directly or indirectly because of her pregnancy was considered null and void, and she must be reinstated with full retroactive pay. The law had led to some practical changes: the burden of proof now lay on the respondent in cases where sex discrimination was alleged.

34. Part-time work was relatively uncommon in Spain; fewer than 10 per cent of all jobs were part-time. However, 12 per cent of women workers as opposed to only 1.7 per cent of men worked part-time. Part-time workers had essentially the same rights as full-time workers (health insurance, pensions etc.). For disabled workers, a special vocational and occupational training programme had been established. Businesses with more than 25 permanent staff were obliged to reserve 2 per cent of their staff positions for disabled workers.

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Article 12

35. The fertility rate had fallen from 1.64 children per woman of childbearing age in 1985 to 1.36 children in 1989. Health education programmes with a human sexuality component were in the planning stages, and family planning centres for young people had been established under pilot programmes. Sixty-five per cent of Spanish women who were or had been in a stable relationship reported using effective birth control methods; for women of childbearing age as a whole the proportion was much lower.

36. With respect to teenage pregnancy, the situation was complicated by the fact that girls tried to conceal their condition as long as possible and so were deprived of the requisite medical attention and even of the chance of an abortion. Pregnant teenagers were more likely than others to leave school.

37. With regard to assisted reproduction technologies, a 1988 law established that any woman over 18 and of sound mind could make use of such technologies provided that she had consented thereto freely, consciously, specifically and in writing. Surrogate motherhood, however, was expressly forbidden.

38. With regard to AIDS, the latest figures indicated that there were 1,359 cases among women and 6,840 among men, so that the male/female ratio was 5 to 1. There was a national AIDS care and prevention programme which, during 1992, would be carrying out activities related to the impact of AIDS on women.

39. With respect to breast cancer, Spain, like other European countries, did not have nationwide prevention programmes, although there were many screening programmes. Research was being done into the possible risk factors for breast cancer, which seemed to be strongly linked to women's nutritional habits. Another study was being done on the efficacy of periodic mammography in 60,000 women between the ages of 45 and 65. However, it was more highly educated women under 45 who generally asked for a mammogram.

40. With regard to drug addiction, the use of cannabis was quite widespread among young people; amphetamines, hallucinogens and cocaine showed higher rates of consumption than heroin, but the latter was still the cause of most hospital emergencies, deaths, transmission of communicable diseases and social disruption. The level of drug addiction was reflected in the numbers of people who had sought treatment: 10,000 in 1987 but more than 25,000 in 1990.

41. In 1985, a national drug plan involving all levels of government as well as private agencies had been approved. In the 1990 financial year, the resources devoted to the development of specific drug dependency programmes had totalled 15 billion pesetas, not counting expenditures by local governments and non-governmental organizations.

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Article 13

42. With respect to social security, Spain had a universal public health-care system. Disability and old-age pensions were of two kinds: contributory and non-contributory. Contributory programmes were restricted to paid employees; non-contributory pensions were those paid to persons who had not contributed to social security but met certain age, residency, health and income requirements. Homemakers were entitled to non-contributory pensions if they met the necessary requirements.

Article 14

43. Spain's rural population was declining and women from rural areas were less likely than men to return home when they completed their education. The 1992 budget included a specific allocation for courses to train rural women in such areas as entrepreneurship, cooperative activities and rural tourism.

Article 16

44. Family courts had been set up in 1981 in Spain's larger cities to deal with marriage, separation, divorce, annulment and filiation. The courts were assisted by psychologists, social workers and other specialists.

45. Ms. CORTI said she was impressed with the progress made in Spain in so short a time and with the political will that had been required. Until 1981, Spain had looked to Italy as the model for women's rights, but the situation had now been reversed. Perhaps Spain's greatest progress had been in eliminating stereotypes. She was impressed, too, by the law regulating advertising; such a law was still the subject of debate in other countries. Certain obstacles did remain, however, notably traditional attitudes and women's lack of self-esteem.

46. With respect to the quotas for candidates for public office, she wished to know whether a law had been enacted or whether such quotas were introduced at the whim of political parties. She asked whether abortions were performed in hospitals or in private clinics; what was the average age of women choosing to terminate their pregnancies; whether health professionals could refuse to perform abortions for reasons of conscience; and whether the RU 486 pill was in use.

47. Ms. EVATT said it appeared that in Spain considerable importance was being given to education, training and employment. She asked whether, in those and other areas, there had been any evaluation of legislative measures and programmes and of change as it occurred. Had the problem of changing men's attitudes to the sharing of parental responsibilities and to the role of women been identified as an area where greater progress was necessary? What would be Spain's main goals during the next reporting period?

48. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said it was clear that much progress had been made in Spain in adopting legislation to ensure greater equality for women. She asked

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for further details about the efforts made to encourage men to participate in child care and housework. How was the issue of equality being raised in the various regions of Spain? Could public prosecutors initiate court proceedings in cases of rape which had been reported by third parties, rather than by the victim? In other countries, the feminist movement, after achieving legislative reforms, had tended to decline; she asked whether that was the case in Spain.

49. Ms. BRAVO NUNEZ DE RAMSEY said that despite the gains that had been made with regard to equality for women in Spain, in some areas women still suffered discrimination, partly because of the poor division of labour within the family which was a great limitation for Spanish women wishing to embark on professional or political careers. Spanish men needed to be made more aware of that issue; Spanish society would benefit from the contribution of all the able-bodied population.

50. Ms. NIKOLAEVA asked why such a high proportion of Spanish women were illiterate and what steps were being taken to eliminate illiteracy and make greater use of education to eliminate social inequality. Clearly, illiterate women had very limited opportunities to fulfil their potential and would have little interest in taking low-paid jobs outside the home.

51. Ms. AOUIJ said that Spain clearly had the legal framework for equality; the task now was to implement those laws so that Spain would be competitive in the European setting and would make rational use of all its human resources. She asked what was being done to encourage more women to participate in politics and enter their names on lists of candidates for election, and to participate at the municipal level. The rate of participation of women in professional activities was low. More encouragement needed to be given to girls to take up scientific studies; after winning the battle for equality, Spanish women needed to win the battle for modernity. The Institute for Women's Affairs should work out concrete measures in that area.

52. Ms. ABAKA said that it was commendable that Spain had achieved a very low rate of infant mortality. The report indicated that the percentage of women working in the legal system was very low; if women were legally illiterate, it was difficult for them to benefit from the Convention.

53. Ms. TALLAWY said that she was impressed with the policy pursued by the Spanish Government to achieve equality in education, including its research into the obstacles to full equality and how to eliminate them. She asked whether Spanish women wishing to enter their names on lists of candidates for election encountered opposition from party leaders. Did the increase in the number of women in diplomatic posts reflect a lack of employment opportunities elsewhere because of economic recession?

54. Ms. AKAMATSU said that she was very impressed by the tremendous changes that had occurred in Spain since 1987 and with the activities of the Institute for Women's Affairs and the Plan for Equality of Opportunities for Women.

55. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING said that much had been achieved in Spain since the establishment of democracy. She asked for more information on the Ministerial Order of 21 February 1986 giving incentives to enterprises for recruiting women to occupations in which they were under-represented: how many women had benefited from that Order, what occupations had they entered and had they received on-the-job training?

56. Ms. UKEJE said that she was impressed with the measures taken to protect women from harmful advertising under the General Law of Publicity.

57. Ms. ALFONSIN DE FASAN asked whether materials on non-sexist education and equality of opportunities that were produced in Spain could be made available to Latin American countries. She expressed the hope that the fight against drugs in Spain would be as successful as the struggle for equality of opportunity.

58. Ms. BERNARD said that there had clearly been a marked improvement in the number of women entering the diplomatic service. She hoped that there would be an improvement in the percentage of women members of the higher courts by the time of Spain's next report.

59. Ms. QUINTOS-DELES said that it was commendable that great progress had been achieved in Spain in securing equality for women. The imposition of Spanish civil and family law during the three centuries of Spanish colonial rule in the Philippines had provided the basis for discrimination against women effectively reversing the equal status that women had enjoyed in pre-colonial society. The progress achieved in Spain would encourage Filipino women in their own struggle, especially in the cultural sphere.

60. Ms. SHANGZHEN said that she was impressed by the plan of action prepared by the Steering Council of the Institute for Women's Affairs which was an indication of the great efforts made by the Spanish Government in recent years to implement the Convention.

61. Ms. GUTIERREZ LOPEZ (Spain) said that the policy of quotas was not laid down by law but was contained in resolutions of certain political parties, including the Socialist Party that had been in power since 1982. The possibility of including a system of quotas in the law on political parties had not been raised.

62. There was no provision in law for health personnel to refuse to perform abortions for reasons of conscience, although their right to object to performing the procedure had been established in a verdict of the Constitutional Court. Over 90 per cent of abortions were performed in private clinics, but most high-risk abortions were performed in public hospitals.

63. She agreed with Committee members that it would not be easy to change the mentality of Spanish men, especially with regard to sharing household responsibilities. Along with improving the public image of women, that was a major goal for the future. Other future goals included the development and,

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above all, the implementation of legislation on equality for women, and the further development of education, training and employment policies that would enable women to enter the workforce and occupy more positions of responsibility. Those objectives would be incorporated in the second Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women, which was expected to be elaborated and adopted by the Spanish Government in the first half of 1992. Replying to the question on equal opportunities at the regional and local level, she said that many of Spain's 10 regional governments had comprehensive plans for the provision of equal opportunities for women. Local governments had prepared their own plans and there were advisers on equal opportunities for women in many municipalities, especially those where the Socialist Party was in power.

64. Spanish legislation did protect sexual freedom and decency and also stipulated penalties for sexual attacks against both women and men. Rape was a crime, not a misdemeanor. Legislation had been amended to eliminate the possibility of a pardon for the rapist, since, in the past, the victim had often been coerced by the rapist or her family into withdrawing charges.

65. She agreed that the attainment of certain basic goals might have demobilized Spain's feminist movement. However, membership in women's organizations had increased as more and more women had come to view their problems as problems common to all women. The increase in membership was also the result of regional initiatives to promote equality for women.

66. The number of illiterate women mentioned in the report was erroneous. In fact, according to data from the 1985 census, 1 million Spanish women were illiterate and 3 million were functionally illiterate, meaning that they had learned to read but had not had an opportunity to develop their skills. Most of those women were over 65 years of age and all of them were over 45.

67. Although the current figure for political participation by women was not the ultimate goal, it did reflect a positive trend. In December 1986, the proposition of women in the Congress of Deputies had been 6.5 per cent; by 1989 it had been 14.6 per cent - an increase of over 100 per cent. It was true that fewer women than men enrolled in engineering and technical schools, but one half of all students in mathematics and other scientific fields were women. The statistics before the Committee were for 1987-1988 and the situation had improved significantly since then. She was grateful for the Committee's remarks on the importance of statistics on education; Spain would make every effort to compile more detailed statistics in that area.

68. While there were no women on the Higher Courts of Justice, 38 per cent of judges and 31 per cent of all public prosecutors were women. Women were not represented in the Higher Courts because they had only recently entered the judiciary and did not yet have the required seniority. The quota policy requiring political parties to present women candidates should offset any tendency by political party leaders to exclude women from their lists of candidates. The significant number of women in the diplomatic corps in no way indicated that Spain was in an economic recession. On the contrary, Spain's

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growth rate in recent years had been higher than that of any other country in the European Community. If women were well represented in the diplomatic corps, it was simply because the entrance examinations for public sector employment were completely objective; unlike the situation in the private sector, ability was the only criterion for recruitment. As she had indicated, 50 per cent of employees in the public administration were women and many of them occupied important positions.

69. As an incentive to the recruitment of women, not only did employers in the many professions where women were under-represented receive a subsidy of 500,000 pesetas from the National Employment Institute if they hired women, but they were also awarded a tax credit of an additional 500,000 pesetas. Although that measure had been in effect since 1987, it had yet to achieve the desired results because it was relatively unknown. A brochure was being disseminated to make employers aware of it.

70. She thanked the Committee for its interest in the new law on advertising, the full text of which had been attached to the replies to the questionnaire. Publications produced by the Institute for Women's Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science were already widely disseminated in Latin America and other Spanish-speaking countries. The Institute would be pleased to make them available in other countries as well.

71. Her Government was taking the problem of drug addiction very seriously and establishing measures for the prevention and control of drug abuse. Spain was the European port of entry for drug traffickers; as a result, drug trafficking and drug addiction had been rising.

72. The CHAIRPERSON said that the comprehensive report and replies by the Spanish delegation demonstrated the Spanish Government's commitment to improving the status of women. Like other countries, Spain was still experiencing some difficulties in certain sensitive areas, such as the sharing of family responsibilities. However, the Government's determination to address the situation could serve as an example to other countries.

73. Ms. TALLAWY, noting the Spanish Government's successful implementation of the Convention, asked whether women from developing countries could be trained in Spain under the Spanish foreign aid programme.

74. Ms. GUTIERREZ LOPEZ noted that that was already being done to some extent in a technical cooperation programme between Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries, which included the dissemination of information on women's issues. She hoped that such cooperation could be broadened in future.

75. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of the second periodic report of Spain.

76. Ms. Gutiérrez López and Mr. Pedauye withdrew.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.